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Financial planner speaks to Vt. women

By Leslie Wright
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To help frame her talk on financial planning, Certified Financial Planner Dee Lee borrowed a quote from Tennessee Williams:

"You can be young without money but you can't be old without it."

About 300 women gathered Friday at the Wyndham hotel in Burlington to learn about managing their money.

The day-long conference was sponsored by the state treasurer's office and the Vermont Commission on Women's Education and Research Foundation.

Lee focused her morning presentation on the basics of financial planning, from paying down bad debt -- such as credit card balances -- and developing realistic retirement plans.

The audience consisted of a broad spectrum of women, from teens to new mothers to retirees.

Galen Northway wanted to learn more about investing in real estate. The Burlington resident hopes to one day buy a rental home on the Maine seacoast.

Roxbury resident Kimberly Jessup attended with her 12-week old son, Cyrus, cradled in her arms. She came to gather information without sales pressure.

"A lot of information you get is from somebody with an angle trying to sell you something. So I'm hoping to get unbiased information," Jessup said.

The conference was sponsored by more than 20 businesses and financial institutions. Contact Leslie Wright at 660-1841 or lwright@bfp.burlingtonfree press.com